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Application No: 10/699,665
Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3096**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 4-7, and 9-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Claims 1, 7, and 9 are amended. Claims 2 and 8 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The subject matter recited in claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1. The subject matter recited in claim 8 is incorporated into claim 7. The dependency of claim 9 is altered as necessitated by the cancellation of claim 8.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In section 4 on pages 3-4, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 7,017,051 to Patrick. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites "mapping said authentication modules to authenticating domain identifiers associated to end-user clients of said authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain identifiers each comprise an application service identifier" (emphasis added). This subject matter relates to providing an application service identifier that specifies the particular application for which authentication is required. See, e.g., paragraph [0020]. Thus, by way of example, the application service identifier "Application 1" could be sent to the authentication server. Id. The authentication server could then use this application service identifier, for example, to obtain a list of software modules that need to be authenticated to access the specified application. Id.

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Applicant respectfully submits that Patrick does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter from the claims quoted above.

The system of Patrick invokes the login method of a LoginContext class to request authentication of the subject. See col. 2, ln. 60-67. Patrick states that the subject can refer to a user, a service, or a process. Id. The subject of Patrick, however, is not associated with an identifier. In other words, Patrick merely authenticates a subject by invoking void login(), which receives no parameters, and does not use an identifier to identify the subject for which authentication is sought.

With respect to the subject matter from the claims quoted above, the Office Action relies on column 8, lines 39-53 of Patrick. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has mischaracterized this portion of Patrick. Patrick states that "one or more principals are associated with a subject upon its successful authentication." See col. 2, ln. 63-65. The portion of Patrick cited by the Office Action merely stands for the proposition that each subject is associated with one or more principals, where each principal has an associated name. Thus, a named principal is associated with a subject after authentication occurs. In other words, the cited section of Patrick shows that the principals are associated with a name, not that the subject includes an application service identifier that is passed to an authentication server.

Accordingly, Patrick does not disclose, teach, or suggest "mapping said authentication modules to authenticating domain identifiers associated to end-user clients of said authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain identifiers each comprise an application service

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identifier," as recited in claim 1. For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

In sections 5-8 on pages 4-5, the Office Action rejects claims 7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0012382 to Ferchichi et al. ("Ferchichi"). Claim 7 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed further below in connection with the rejection of claim 8.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from allowable claim 7 and are therefore allowable over Ferchichi at least by virtue of their dependencies for the reasons stated above in connection with claim 7. For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In sections 9-10 on pages 5-6, the Office Action rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Patrick in view of Ferchichi. In section 11 on pages 6-7, the Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Patrick in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,587,880 to Saigo et al. ("Saigo").

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-6 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claim 1 for the reasons stated above in connection with claim 1. Saigo fails to overcome the deficiencies in Patrick and the deficiencies in Ferchichi correctly conceded by the

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Office Action in section 13 on page 7. For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

In sections 12-15 on pages 7-8, the Office Action rejects claims 8, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ferchichi in view of Shimada. As discussed above in connection with the rejection of claim 7, claim 7 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8. Claim 8 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, claim 7 recites "means, at the end-user client, for sending an authenticating domain identifier to an authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain identifier comprises an application service identifier" (emphasis added). In section 13 on page 7, the Office Action correctly concedes that Ferchichi does not disclose, teach, or suggest the emphasized subject matter in the quote above. With respect to this subject matter, however, the Office Action relies on Shimada.

Applicant respectfully submits that Shimada does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter quoted above. The Office Action alleges that paragraphs [0040]-[0041] of Shimada disclose this subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has mischaracterized the disclosure of Shimada.

Shimada describes a method for providing a service based on the results of an authentication step. As stated in paragraph [0041], the method of Shimada determines "whether an authentication ID associated with a user who succeeded in authentication is stored in an authentication database." The authentication database "stores an authentication ID and users'

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status-of-use information associated with each other." Thus the authentication ID of Shimada is associated with a user and is not used as an identifier for an application service.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Shimada and Ferchichi fail to disclose, teach, or suggest "means, at the end-user client, for sending an authenticating domain identifier to an authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain identifier comprises an application service identifier," as recited in claim 7.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 and 12 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claim 7. For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 8, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

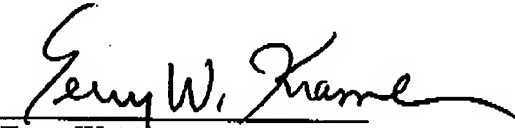
While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

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In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

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Terry W. Kramer
Registration No.: 41,541

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-519-9801
Fax: 703-519-9802